rich capitalist it 'offers a very beneficial investment—a more advantageous investment than either the public funds or any other of the ordinary securities.'

"And now comes the question, how such a self-evident mare's nest and swindling *felo de se* as this,—how a statement that contradicts itself and cuts its own throat before you touch it, can get even an outside and surface to pass itself with? Mr. Bowen has gone into this point very accurately, and makes the hedgehog unroll itself.

"This is done, then, by a sort of legerdemain and sleight-of-hand movement. One set of figures appears in one part, and this re-appears in another with just a little alteration that would hardly be observed by a superficial eye, but which, when it runs up and is multiplied by four or five shares, makes all the difference. Thus they coolly start with telling the borrowing member of the society that he pays for his ready money by a deduction, 'averaging, according to the experience of similar societies, *from 50l. to 65l. per share.*' Now, every one must see, that where the borrowed sums are as small as these are here, the difference between the 50*l.* and 65*l.* must make all the difference as to the advantageousness of the terms to the borrower. Multiply 15*l.* per share by four or five shares, and you will find the amount make a good hole in two or three hundred pounds. Now, when they come to their explanatory table, which they mean to catch the eye of the needy borrowing man, they of course take their smallest deduction,—50*l.* Mr. Bowen simply takes their highest—65*l.*, and this makes all the difference. For, whereas their table shews that a man can borrow 350*l.* of them, and repay the same at an interest of only 70*l.*, Mr. Bowen's shews that his 350*l.* will cost him an interest of 300*l.*! The difference between the 50*l.* and the 65*l.* to begin with, makes the difference between 70*l.* and the 300*l.* in the event. And so far from Mr. Bowen's scale of deduction being too high a one, he declares it is frequently a full 10*l.* higher in such societies.

"But the terms on which the society lends its money speak for themselves, and make the principle of the whole apparent:—

"'As the association is from time to time in a position to make advances, notice thereof will be given to all the members; and those of them who are desirous of receiving their shares for any of the purposes contemplated by the association, will then state the *largest amount they will deduct from* the final value; in other words, *for how much less than* 120*l.* they will, in consideration of an immediate advance, sell to the association the ultimate value of each share; and if more than one member require an advance, that member who will consent to *the largest deduction*—that is, to *receive the smallest sum*, will be entitled to priority.'

"'Can any thing,' remarks Mr. Bowen, 'more detestable in principle, more degrading to our common nature, be presented to the world than this nefarious scheme for transferring the little savings of the frugal poor into the pockets of ravenous capitalists? Here are the inexperienced, the sanguine, and the needy encouraged to bid one against another! Advantages are taken of the pressing necessities which sometimes induce men to submit to a ruinous loss for a present accommodation, and thus a bonus is wrung from the very recklessness of despair! Ignorance, misfortune, and distress, are converted into a Joint-stock Bank, for the benefit of speculating shareholders, under the base pretence of 'opening a channel for the fruits of industrious labour and of affording a rich reward to economy and prudence.'"

Lately has appeared, from the pen of Count de St. Priest, an interesting work, illustrated by numerous large and beautifully coloured plates, upon American antiquities: it describes the wonderful monuments of architecture which nations long since extinct have left behind them, in the remains of Xochicalco, Mitla, Palanca, and other places.

A work on the Egyptian Museum at Rome will shortly appear: the execution of the plates has been intrusted to the architectural engraver, Troisni, to whom a sum of eight thousand crowns has been allowed for the purpose; the letter-press will be from the pen of Barbabite P. Inegnelli.

CHANTREY'S STATUE OF GEORGE IV.

This statue, which was originally intended to surmount the marble arch in front of Buckingham Palace, but which has been placed on the pedestal at the north-east corner of Trafalgar-square, is now uncovered, and attracts a great deal of attention. The likeness is at once, characteristic and elegant, as all Chantrey's are; the rider is well seated in the saddle, and has an air of dignified ease; the left hand holding the bridle loosely, and the right gracefully holding a baton, which rests on the thigh. The drapery is the conventional compromise between modern and classic dress, by means of which Sir Francis Chantrey got rid of the alleged difficulty of treating in sculpture the modern costume; and covers the upper part of the figure, on which it hangs in light and graceful folds, that leave sufficiently expressed the form beneath; and the lower limbs are clothed in a sort of close pantaloons. The thin and close covering of the legs gives them a naked and unfinished appearance, which is increased by the absence of stirrups. The horse stands firmly in an attitude of rest, all four feet being planted on the ground, and seems by far too unimpassioned for a public work of the kind. The head is small and animated in expression, the neck arched, the chest ample, the limbs muscular and finely formed, the hind-quarters are spare, and seem somewhat small compared with the full development of the fore-part. We do not question the correctness of the animal's proportions; Chantrey would scarcely be wrong in so important a point. Perhaps, however, the form of a horse of the Arab breed is not so well suited to sculpture as that of the Flemish breed which figures in the battle-pieces of Rubens; this is the type of the horses in equestrian statues, including that on which Charles I. is seated at Charing-cross. In modelling the horse standing upon all four legs, Chantrey has made an innovation on the old custom of representing horses in statues either curvetting or ambling. On the whole, we do not think this fine statue will add to the reputation of the great artist. The raising of the man upon the huge quiet horse, and building him up as it were firmly upon the four sound legs, has, we think, more the appearance of exhibition than of high art, which delights in seizing, and with one jet of bronze to render eternal as it were the graceful and rapid action of the great.

LEICESTER MEMORIAL.

On Thursday, the 11th inst., the committee met to decide upon the adoption of a design for the Memorial to Lord Leicester. There were 76 plans and models exhibited. One, No. 40, was chosen, subject to certain arrangements with the architect, Mr. Dunthorne, of Hanover-street, London. We subjoin a description of the design:—

No. 40.—"To him whose pride it was to render the Farmer independent."

This design is composed of a pedestal, on which is erected a fluted column, surmounted by a wheat-sheaf. Three sides of the pedestal are bas-reliefs; one representing the late Earl granting a lease to a tenant; the second representing the Holkham sheep-shearing, through which the great stimulus was first given to agriculture; the third to indicate irrigation. The fourth side of the pedestal is left for the inscription. The four corners of the pedestal shew the means by which cultivation and production were improved and increased by the late earl. At the first corner, an ox, with the inscription under it, "Breeding in all its branches." At the second corner Southdown sheep, with the inscription under them, "Small in size, but great in value." The third corner, the plough, with the inscription, "Live and let live." The fourth corner, the drill, with the inscription, "The improvement of agriculture."

The Minister of Public Instruction has just succeeded, after considerable opposition on the ground of expense, in obtaining from the Chamber of Deputies a vote for the removal of the *Bibliothèque de Sainte-Geneviève*, at Paris, from the fine but ruinous gallery which it occupied over the College Henri IV. to a new building to be erected for its reception. The sum demanded was about seventy-five thousand pounds sterling.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

At the meeting held Nov. 29th,

Dr. Richards, the rector of Exeter College, read a paper on the history and origin of *Rural Deaneries* in England, and on some of the duties of the office of rural dean, with especial reference to the deanery of Woodstock, of which an account is about to be published by the society in their "Guide to the Architectural Antiquities in the Neighbourhood of Oxford." He shewed that the office of rural dean was in use in England in the eleventh century, and in the Christian church as early as the sixth century; that the probable origin of the name was that this officer originally presided over ten parishes, although in the subsequent increase of parishes, and the union of two or three deaneries into one, this origin has been almost forgotten. One great use of the office at the present day is to prevent further mischief being done to our churches; and as no alteration can be made without the consent of the ordinary, the rural dean may, by an appeal to him, prevent the introduction of galleries, the conversion of open benches into close pews, the removal of screens, and the performance of other injuries; but that for the restoration of our churches to a decent state where the mischief has been already perpetrated, he must rely rather on persuasion, repeated admonitions, and appeals to the better feelings of the parties interested, than on the expensive processes of ecclesiastical law. In his own deanery, great credit is due to the incumbent and parishioners of Steeple Aston for the very beautiful restoration of their church. The manner in which it has been effected was also very creditable to Mr. Plowman, the architect. Much credit is also due to the incumbent of Cassington, for his zealous efforts to effect the same object, though he had been but ill-seconded in general by the parishioners. The churches in this deanery are not generally what would be called fine churches, although perhaps Kidlington, Handborough, and Stanton Harcourt, might deserve that distinction, but almost all of them are ancient, and possess features of interest, and are worthy the attention of the architectural student.

CEMETERY AT OXFORD.

At a meeting held at Oxford on the 2nd January, the Rev. Dr. Buckland, Canon of Christ Church, begged to call the attention of the meeting to Mr. Chadwick's Report on Interments in Towns, full of most frightful and curious details. He cited also Mr. Chadwick's account of the parish of St. Margaret, in Leicester, in which in a population of 22,000 persons, whose average age of death, in 1840, was, in the whole parish, at 18 years. In the different streets of this parish the average being as follows:—

	Years of Age.
In streets drained, but not perfectly, at	23½
In streets partially drained, at	17½
In streets entirely undrained, at	13½

The inhabitants of all this parish are chiefly stocking-weavers. The fact of the average duration of human life in the tainted air of one undrained street being only 13½ years, was quite appalling. His (Dr. Buckland's) attention had been called that morning, by a magistrate of Oxford, to a certain foul drain, in narrow parts of this city, that may, in unhealthy seasons, become the source of pestilence and death. He considered facts of this kind to be very pertinent to the business of the present meeting, inasmuch as the pestilential effects of putrid air, from the decomposition of bodies in over-crowded cemeteries, had been recently demonstrated, by inquiries made by commissioners appointed to report on the sanatory condition of the labouring population, and on the health of towns; who further state, that "the occurrence of fever is frequently connected with near proximity even to a small amount of decomposing organic matter." He was therefore gratified at the prospect of witnessing the removal to an appropriate spot, without the city of those occasional sources of contamination to the air, and injury to the living, which may sometimes arise from the putrid bodies of the dead. The example of all large cities on the Continent, and of the most populous towns in England, has shewn the expediency and facility of providing a